

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases which has a structure in which:

a plurality of a columnar porous ceramic member are combined with one another through adhesive layer, each of said columnar porous ceramic member comprising a number of through holes that are placed in parallel with one another in the length direction with partition wall interposed therebetween

such that

said partition wall which separates said through holes functions as a filter for collecting particulates

wherein

the relationship between a thermal expansion coefficient α_L of said adhesive layer and a thermal expansion coefficient α_F of said porous ceramic member is as follows:

$$0.01 < |\alpha_L - \alpha_F|/\alpha_F < 1.0.$$

Claim 2 (Original): A honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases which has a structure in which:

a plurality of a columnar porous ceramic member are combined with one another through adhesive layer,

each of said columnar porous ceramic member comprising a number of through holes that are placed in parallel with one another in the length direction

while partition wall interposed therebetween

such that

said partition wall which separates said through holes functions as a filter for collecting particulates

wherein

Young's modulus of said adhesive layer is set to 60% or less of Young's modulus of said porous ceramic member, and

the relationship between a thermal expansion coefficient α_L of said adhesive layer and a thermal expansion coefficient α_F of said porous ceramic member is as follows:

$$0.01 < (\alpha_L - \alpha_F)/\alpha_F < 1.0.$$

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising
a catalyst supported thereon.

Claim 4 (New): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 2, further comprising
a catalyst supported thereon.